

RECORD OF TELEPHONIC INTERVIEW

On October 18, 2005 a formal interview was conducted between the Examiner and Applicants' representative. No agreement was reached with respect to the Claims. The Examiner requested that Applicant submit written clarifying points with respect to Engelhardt, et al. (U.S. 6,150,666), but noted that Englehardt appears to lack sufficient disclosure of the structure recited in the independent claims to support the present rejections.

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 8-17, 19 and 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 5-7, 18 and 20 as depending on a rejected base claim. The Examiner has also objected to the drawings.

1. Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as not containing support for the features recited in Claim 11. Claim 11 has been amended to overcome the rejection, as the resonator includes the surface of interest in both the figures and Amended Claim 11. Therefore, applicants believe the objections to the drawings have been overcome.

2. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4, 8-17, 19 and 21-28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Englehardt.

Claim 1 (and similarly other independent Claims 11 and 23) recites:

"multiple reflective surfaces for sustaining multiple internal reflections in a cavity formed between said reflective surfaces; and
an imaging lens positioned at a predetermined position along an optical path between a first and second one of said multiple reflective surfaces and having a predetermined focal length such that a first region on said first reflective surface is imaged onto a second region on said second reflective surface."

Englehardt does not disclose or suggest such a structure. The recited structure (and the corresponding method of operation) require that a lens be introduced in a path of multiple reflection within the resonator. Englehardt does not include a resonator at all. The multi-focal illumination system disclosed by Englehardt, particularly with respect to Figure 15, does not resonate and further, introduction of a lens is neither suggested by Englehardt, nor would it be obvious to introduce such a lens, as was suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action. First, in order to provide the multi-focal operation of the illuminator depicted in Englehardt, the reflection rays shown in the multiple reflection plate 31 in Figure of Englehardt 15 only reflect once at each face before being emitted. As the angle of reflection differs at each reflection, the structure shown in Englehardt does not support

resonance. (Note that any reflection from one of surfaces 30 will return along the illumination path and be emitted from plate 31 back through lens 29), and further no lens is suggested for introduction within the reflective paths within plate 31.

Therefore, applicants believe that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) have been overcome.

The Examiner further cites Hill (U.S. 6,847,029) as being relevant. Hill discloses resonant cavities, but not a lens within the resonant path. In particular, none of the resonant cavities disclosed by Hill include a lens portion within the cavity itself, in particular a lens that images a region of a first reflective surface onto a region of a second reflective surface while supporting resonance between the two regions.

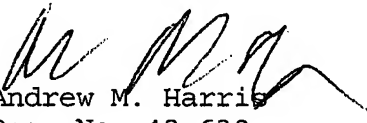
Therefore, for all of the reasons stated above, applicants believe that all of the rejections and objections have been overcome.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment, in view of the Remarks offered in conjunction therewith, are fully responsive to all aspects of the objections and rejections tendered by the Examiner in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that they have persuasively demonstrated that the above-identified Patent Application, including Claims 1-28 are in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

No fees should be incurred by this Amendment, but if there are any fees incurred by this Amendment Letter, please deduct them from our Deposit Account No. 23-0830.

Respectfully submitted,


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